

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10, 11-18 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitcham, U.S. Patent No. 5,537,315 in view of Danilunas et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,263,320. In addition, claims 10, 19 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Mitcham '315 patent in view of the Danilunas et al., '320 patent and further in view of the Dugas article entitled "Not The Total Solution Bankruptcy Stays On Credit Reports". As hereinafter described, applicant has amended the claims to more particularly define the invention for which protection is sought. It is now believed that all of the pending claims, namely, claims 1-24, are in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Claim 1 defines a method of generating an insurance quote for an applicant for a loan from a lender to purchase an item. The method includes the steps of determining the acceptability of the loan and obtaining data from a lender's database. At least a portion of the database is provided to the lender by the applicant in connection with obtaining a loan from the lender. Thereafter, an insurance risk is automatically underwritten for the item intended to be purchased using the loan and the insurance quote is generated utilizing the data obtained from the lender's database. Finally, the applicant is advised of the acceptability of the loan and also provided with the insurance quote if the loan has been accepted. As hereinafter described, nothing in the cited references shows or suggests a method of generating an insurance quote wherein the insurance quote is provided to the applicant contemporaneously with a favorable decision on a loan application.

The Mitcham '315 patent is directed to a data processing system for automatically associating a user signature with a document. More specifically, the data processing system incorporates a touch screen and a pointing device. A user supplies information utilizing the touch screen and the pointing device to create documents such as an insurance agreement that may be printed or kept as stored electronic document. It is contemplated that by using the data processing system disclosed in the '315 patent, a user may independent create a binding

document, such as an insurance agreement, without the need for interacting with the representative of the party, such as a representative insurance company. As the Examiner correctly notes, the Mitcham '315 patent does not teach the obtaining of data from a lender's database or using such data to underwrite a corresponding insurance risk. As such, the Examiner has cited the Danilunas et al. '320 patent to overcome the limitations of the disclosure in the Mitcham '315 patent.

The Danilunas et al. '320 patent is directed to a method of financing the acquisition of an automobile. The method includes providing an administrator that supplies information on financial products and automobile related products and services to potential automobile owners or purchasers. More specifically, the method includes forming a list of automobiles meeting certain safety criteria. The list is maintained and administered by an administrator which is independent of any particular automobile manufacture in order to establish and maintain credit ability. From time-to-time, the administrator provides various financial products on automobile related products and services to a group of individuals, or alternatively, to a club with individuals as members of the club. The groups or clubs are divided into potential automobile owners or purchasers and/or third parties that are related to or otherwise personally associated with respective potential automobile owners. For example, the third party may be a grandparent of a potential owner. The administrator may, in one embodiment, sell one or more financial products directly to the individuals of the group or, alternatively, may license one or more third parties to sell one or more financial products to persons in the group. In each case, the financial products may include insurance policies, investments, savings schemes, financial funds, stocks and/or bonds. The financial products are paid into a fund established under a financial product plan for the later purchase of an automobile. Therefore, unlike the methodology of the present invention which directly ties the method of generating an insurance quote on insurance to cover an item to the information provided to a lender by an applicant in order to obtain a loan for the item, the system disclosed in the Danilunas et al. '320 patent merely allows for the prepurchase of a financial product that relates to the purchase of an automobile. There is simply no tie between the information provided to a lender by a loan applicant and the information provided to an insurance carrier to underwrite an insurance policy. In fact, the Danilunas et al. '320 patent

contemplates that the loan applicant and the applicant for the financial product be different individuals. Hence, there is no teaching or suggestion in either the Mitcham '315 patent or the Danilunas et al. '320 patent to provide a method of generating an insurance quote that 1) utilizes the information provided by an applicant for a loan to generate an insurance quote; and 2) provides the insurance quote contemporaneously with the advising of the applicant of the loan approval. Such a methodology is entirely absent from the cited references, and as such, it is believed that independent claim 1 defines over the cited references and is in proper form for allowance.

Claims 2-10 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and further define a method of generating an insurance quote not shown or suggested in the prior art. It is believed that claims 2-10 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Referring to claim 11, a method is provided for generating an insurance quote for an applicant for a loan. Similar to claim 1, claim 11 requires the steps of determining the acceptability of a loan and the automatically underwriting an insurance risk for the item intended to be purchased with the loan proceeds, using the data obtained from the lender's database. Claim 11 further requires that the underwriting occur for a plurality of insurance companies. Thereafter, one of the plurality of insurance companies is selected and an insurance quote is generated for the applicant from the selected insurance company. Finally, the insurance quote is provided to the applicant with the determination of the acceptability of the loan if the loan has been accepted. As heretofore described, neither of the cited references shows or suggests tying the gathering of information to generate an insurance quote with the obtaining of data provided to the lender by the applicant in order to obtain a loan, much less the selection of one of a plurality of insurance companies to generate the quote. Such a methodology is entirely absent from the cited references. As such, it is believed that independent claim 11 defines over the cited references and passage to allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-19 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 11 and further define a method of generating an insurance quote not shown or suggested in the prior art. Applicant believes that claims 12-19 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Referring to claim 20, a method is provided for generating an insurance quote for an applicant for a loan from a lender wherein the loan is intended to fund the purchase of an item. The method includes the steps of determining the acceptability of the loan and requesting permission from the applicant to provide the insurance quote for the item. A first portion of data is obtained from a lender's database in response to permission to provide the insurance quote from the applicant. The first portion of data is provided to the lender by the applicant in order to obtain the loan. Automatically, it is determined if additional data is needed to underwrite an insurance risk for the item, and if so, such information is obtained. Thereafter, the insurance risk is automatically underwritten for a plurality of insurance companies and one of the plurality of insurance companies is selected. The insurance quote from the selected insurance company and a determination of the acceptability of the loan are provided to the applicant if the loan has been accepted. In addition, an additional insurance quote may be provided to the applicant if requested.

As heretofore described with respect to independent claims 1 and 11, nothing in the cited references shows or suggests tying the generation of an insurance quote to the use of information provided to a lender by an applicant in order to obtain a loan. Such a methodology is entirely absent from the cited references. Hence, it is believed that independent claim 20 defines over the cited references and passage to allowance is respectfully requested.

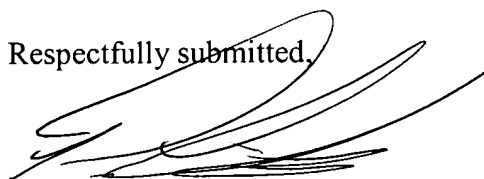
Claims 21-24 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 20 and further define a method not shown or suggested in the prior art. It is believed that claims 21-24 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Applicant believes that the present application with claims 1-24 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

A Petition for a three-month request for extension of time together with the fee is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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